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Atlanta, GA 30307

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Records of Peter Bourne, Special Assistant to the President for Health Issues: A Guide to Its Records at the Jimmy Carter Library

Collection Summary

Creator: Office of the Special Assistant to the President for Health Issues

Title: Records of Peter Bourne, Special Assistant to the President for Health Issues

Dates: 1976-1979

Quantity: 23 linear feet open for research, 53 containers

Identification:

Accession Number: 80-1

National Archives Identifier: 1096

Scope and Content:

These materials relate to Dr. Peter Bourne's role as an advisor to Jimmy Carter during the 1976 Presidential campaign, transition period, and his appointment as Assistant to the President for Health Issues, 1977-78. As special assistant, these records also document Bourne's role as director of the Office of Drug Abuse (ODAP), executive director of the Strategy Council, and member of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships. The files consist of memoranda, correspondence, notes, speech drafts, reports, briefings, invitations, and printed material. The majority of these files pertain to Dr. Bourne's role as the administration's health and drug expert.

Creator Information: Office of the Special Assistant to the President for Health Issues

The Office of the Special Assistant to the President for Health Issues is responsible for communicating and interacting with various interest groups on issues related to health and drug use. The office listened to public interest groups' concerns and communicated them to the President or the appropriate agency. The office also explained to these groups the administration's positions and programs on health related issues. It pursued a media outreach effort to raise awareness of the administration's health initiatives and promote the existence of the office as a point of contact for the public. Bourne's duties as Special Assistant for Health Issues included seeking information about the approach and policies of the Carter Administration toward health problems, drug abuse, and international drug trafficking.

The Office of Drug Abuse Policy (ODAP) was created by Public Law 94-236, with the responsibility of carrying out the congressional mandate of reviewing, formulating, and coordinating policy and priorities for federal drug abuse prevention and treatment activities. The operational activities were chiefly administered by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) within the Justice Department. ODAP sought to provide visibility, accountability, and coherence in the formulation and execution of a national drug policy, but it was not involved in grant making or specific operations.

Bourne served as executive director of The Strategy Council, which was created by the Drug Abuse and Treatment Act of 1972. The council was charged with the responsibility of developing a comprehensive, coordinated, long-term strategy for all drug abuse prevention functions of the federal government. This council consisted of private citizens and government officials.

The World Hunger Working Group was formed to coordinate a White House study of world hunger in relation to U.S. domestic and international food and agricultural policies. Bourne was appointed to head this working group and designated to serve on the cabinet-level Committee on Food and Agricultural Policy, chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Bourne also was appointed as a member of The President's Commission on White House Fellowships, particularly the Presidential Commission on Mental Health. This Commission consisted of prominent private citizens and government officials with John W. Gardner serving as chairman of the commission.

[Biographical information](#) on key office personnel is located at the end of the finding aid.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: These papers contain documents restricted in accordance with Executive Order 12958, which governs National Security policies, and material which has been closed in accordance with the donor's deed of gift.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction: Copyright interest in these papers has been donated to the United States Government. Some of the records may be subject to copyright restrictions. (i.e. newspapers, publications, etc) Researchers should contact the publisher for further information.

Related Material

Related materials in this repository: White House Central File in the following categories: HE (Health), FG 6-8 (Office of Drug Abuse), FG 22-10 (Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration), FG 6-1-1/Bourne, FG 287 (Commission on Mental Health), FG 233(President's Commission on White House Fellowships), IT 102 (World Health Organization), and FG 17-3 (Drug Enforcement Administration); Records of the Domestic Policy Staff; Presidential Commission on World Hunger; Records of the First Ladies' Office.

Index Terms

Limited to major topics under each category

Persons: Peter Bourne, Lee I. Dogoloff (Deputy Director), Jack Keefe (Border Management INS), Joseph Krueger (DEA), Charles O'Keefe, Ellen Metsky, Sara Seanor, John W. Gardner, Mazie Pope, Gerald Fill (Office of Management and Budget)

Subjects: 1976 Campaign, Presidential transitions, health, drug abuse, mental health, drug enforcement, drug trafficking, international health, world hunger

Organizations: Office of Drug Abuse Policy, National Institute of Drug Abuse, Drug Enforcement Administration, The Strategy Council, World Hunger Working Group, White House Fellowship

Places: Africa, Middle East, South America, Asia, Europe

Types of Material: memoranda, correspondence, notes, speech drafts, reports, briefings, invitations, and printed material.

Administrative Information

Preferred citation: [Type of Document], [Names of Sender and Recipient or Title of Document], [Date], [Collection Title], [Series Title], [Folder Title], [Box Number], Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

Acquisition information: These historical materials were received under provisions of the instrument of gift that Jimmy Carter signed January 31, 1981.

Processing information: The first series of the collection was opened in December 1988. The last series in this collection was opened on July 1993. The opening dates are indicated in the series descriptions.

System of Arrangement

The records of the Office of the Special Assistant to the President for Health Issues are divided into 8 series:

Series Title	National Archives Identifier
Peter Bourne's Transition Files	145862
Peter Bourne's Correspondence Files	145892
Peter Bourne's Invitation Files	145938
Peter Bourne's Memoranda Files	145948
Peter Bourne's Subject Files	146029
Ellen Metsky's White House Files	146204
Peter Bourne's World Hunger Files	146231
Peter Bourne's International Health Files	146265

Detailed Description of the Collection

[Peter Bourne's Transition Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 1-5. This series opened in December 1988. This series includes correspondence, memoranda, printed material, resumes, reports, and note. These materials relate to topics on the 1976 campaign and presidential transition. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Peter Bourne's Correspondence Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 6-15. This series opened in December 1988. This series includes correspondence, notes, and printed material. These materials relate to topics on drug abuse, mental health, drug enforcement, drug trafficking, international health, and world hunger. Arranged chronologically by folder title, with some alphabetical files at the end of series.

[Peter Bourne's Invitation Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 16-19. This series opened in December 1988. This series includes invitations, correspondence, notes, and printed material. These materials relate to topics on drug abuse, mental health, drug enforcement, drug trafficking, international health, and world hunger. Arranged chronologically by folder title.

[Peter Bourne's Memoranda Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 20-29. This series opened in December 1988. This series includes memoranda, correspondence, notes, and printed material. These materials relate to topics on drug abuse, mental health, drug enforcement, drug trafficking, international health, and world hunger. Arranged chronologically by folder title, with some alphabetical files at the end of series.

[Peter Bourne's Subject Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 30-45. This series opened in December 1988. This series includes reports, telegrams, cables, memoranda, speeches, and correspondence. These materials related to topics on international drug trade, drug abuse, international health, and world hunger. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Ellen Metsky's White House Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 46-47. This series opened in December 1988. This series includes reports, correspondence, memoranda, and printed material. These materials relate to health issues concerning infants, children, adolescents, and youth. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[Peter Bourne's World Hunger Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 48-51. This series opened in December 1988. This series includes reports, memoranda, and correspondence. These materials relate to topics on world hunger in relation to U.S. domestic and international food and agricultural policies. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Peter Bourne's International Health Files

Scope and Content: Containers 52-53. This series opened in July 1989. This series includes reports, memoranda, and correspondence. These materials relate to topics on international health and world hunger. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

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Last modified: April 23, 2013

Biographical Information

Peter Bourne

Dr. Peter Bourne was born in 1939 in Oxford, England, where he received his early education at the Dragon School before attending Whitgift School, Croydon. He graduated with an M.D. degree from Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, in 1962, and received an MA in anthropology from Stanford University, California, in 1969. After graduating, he entered the military, serving as a Captain in the United States Army. He was assigned to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), where he studied the psychological and physiological effects of stress on basic trainees and men in combat. He spent one year in Vietnam as head of the Army's psychiatric research team, where he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Air Medal and the Combat Medical Badge. After returning from Vietnam he was active in the anti-war movement.

Bourne became active in Democratic politics in 1971 working in the Georgia Governor's Office for Jimmy Carter. Bourne was also influential in convincing Carter to run for the Presidency several years later, and became involved in Carter's campaign for President.

After setting up and successfully running Georgia's first statewide drug treatment program, Bourne was asked to take a position as deputy in charge of treatment programs in President Nixon's Special Action Office of Drug Abuse Prevention (SAODAP) in Washington. Under Jimmy Carter, Bourne was appointed special assistant to the President for health issues, 1977-1979. In 1979, Bourne resigned his position.

In 1979, Bourne became an Assistant Secretary-General at the United Nations, where he established and ran the "International Drinking Water Decade," a 10-year program that provided clean drinking water to 500 million people worldwide. After leaving the UN in 1982 for the private sector, he served on the boards of numerous charities.

In 1995 as an Advisor on Foreign Policy to US Congressman Bill Richardson, Bourne accompanied him to Baghdad for a meeting with Saddam Hussein to secure the release of two American aerospace workers who had been captured by the Iraqis after crossing over the Kuwaiti border. Richardson and Bourne subsequently collaborated on a number of such efforts in Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Kenya, and North Korea where they helped win the release of an American lay preacher who had crossed to the wrong side of the border.

Dr. Bourne has authored over a hundred articles and written or edited ten books.

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